

# POLICY MEMO

## Policy Memo: I-2-2010

**TO:** Local Agency Directors

**FROM:** Marge Blankenship, Clinic Services Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Medicaid Changes & WIC Income Determination

Changes in how Nebraska's Medicaid program determines eligibility for some individuals has been in the news recently and may undergo additional changes this year. This has raised many questions for WIC. The current changes to Medicaid are:

- No coverage for unborn children.
- Pregnant woman's eligibility determined on her own merit so she must be a legal resident.
- Cannot count unborn in family size for income determination.
- Eligibility of pregnant minors will be determined considering the income of her parents unless she is emancipated.

These changes will have an impact on the adjunct WIC income eligibility of certain pregnant women.

All Medicaid cases, both new and those under review will have eligibility determined using the new rule beginning January 21, 2010. Each existing case will be reviewed for continued eligibility under the new rule. A timeframe to complete the reviews has not been determined at this time.

New pregnant women and those who are eligible to receive Medicaid after their case review will be issued a card with their name and the name(s) of any other eligible family member(s). Medicaid cards will no longer list the unborn baby as a participant.

Since adjunctive income eligibility will be changing mid-certification for these WIC families and this may occur over a period of a few months we want to minimize the impact on WIC clinics, staff and clients. Therefore, WIC will not check the income eligibility of current clients receiving Medicaid until the client's next recertification visit.

When determining adjunctive income eligibility staff should continue to call the NMES line to verify Medicaid eligibility. This will provide the most up to date information about a client's eligibility.

As a reminder the loss of adjunctive eligibility does not mean a client is no longer income eligible for WIC. All clients who report that they are no longer receiving Medicaid, should have their income rescreened at their recertification visit using the Income Questions. These clients may not have documentation with them. Reported income should be accepted and a 30 day extension given to bring the documentation when the income is within WIC guidelines.

For questions about this change contact me at 308-865-5616

xc: State WIC Staff